

PDMP Use Mandate Frequently Asked Questions

1) As a prescriber, under what circumstances am I required to request, assess and document receipt of a patient's PDMP prescription history?

Beginning July 1, 2018 Maryland's PDMP use mandate will take effect. It requires prescribers to request and assess PDMP data:

- Before beginning a new course of treatment with an opioid or benzodiazepine
- When a course of treatment with an opioid or benzodiazepine extends beyond 90 days. In this case, prescribers must query again at least every 90 days thereafter before prescribing or dispensing the opioid or benzodiazepine.

Prescribers must view at least the last 4 months of data (This will always be available within a PDMP data view.)

A prescriber delegate may pull the PDMP data, but the prescriber remains responsible for assessing the data prior to making a prescribing decision.

2) Are there any exceptions to the mandate for prescribers?

Yes, there are exceptions. A prescriber is NOT REQUIRED to request PDMP data if the opioid or benzodiazepine is prescribed or dispensed to an individual:

- For a period of 3 days or less (≤ 3 days)
- For cancer treatment or cancer-related pain
- For a patient who is
 - Receiving treatment in an inpatient unit of a hospital
 - Part of a general hospice program*
 - Diagnosed with a terminal illness*
 - Residing in a nursing home, long-term care, developmental disability, or assisted living facility
- To treat or prevent acute pain for a period of 14 days or less (< 14 days) following:
 - Surgical procedure*
 - Bone Fracture
 - Significant trauma*
 - Childbirth

* See specific FAQs for definitions of these terms